

[0043] A system and method for providing trans-polar satellite communications is provided. The satellite communication system comprises at least one gateway station, at least one satellite having a polar orbit, and at least one antenna connected to the at least one gateway station for tracking the at least one satellite. The at least one satellite is adapted to provide single hop transpolar satellite communication between two gateways separated by as much as 180° in longitude. Additional satellites can be provided to provide global coverage. Each satellite provides trans-polar coverage of the earth for a time period dependent on the number of satellites used for coverage.